advertisement, VSNL and M/s ICO have been informed that wireless equipment can be sold only after the approval by this Ministry, to users having appropriate permission/wireless licence issued by this Ministry.

New technology for Broad Band Services

3144. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL's mobile base has crossed the one crore mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL does not operate in most of the lucrative markets;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL is planning to introduce new technologies for broad band services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes Sir. Number of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) based mobile subscribers of BSNL as on 31.07.2005 are 1,07,66,698.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. BSNL is licensed to provide GSM-based mobile Service in 21 out of total 23 Service areas in the country i.e. whole of India except Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service Areas where MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) is, *inter-alia*, licensed to provide mobile services. BSNL is providing mobile services in all its 21 licensed service areas having coverage in more than 4200 cities/towns including tourist, religious places and all other places of commercial importance. BSNL is also providing coverage along major National/State Highways and Railways Routes.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) BSNL has planned the following technologies to provide broadband services:

Access Network: BSNL has deployed ADSL2plus (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) based equipment to provide broadband access with speed ranging from 256 KBPS (Kilobits Per Second) and above to its fixed line customers. Currently, this is being used to provide 'Always ON' High Speed Internet Access Services to its customers. In addition, other technologies such as WiFi (Wireless Fidelity) and WiMax (Wireless Metropolitan Access Network) are also being deployed to provide wireless based broadband services.

Core (Backbone) Network: BSNL has deployed state of the art Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) based IP Infrastructure as part of its National Internet Backbone II (NIB-II) project with 71 nodes connected on high speed [from 135 Mbps (Megabits Per Second) to 2.5 Gbps (Gigabits Per Second) and redundant links.

Telegraph Office of Raghunathpur, Siwan in Bihar

3145. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of Raghunathpur have to cover a distance of 30 kms. for sending a telegram to their District H.Q. Siwan;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up a Telegraph office at Raghunathpur, Siwan (Bihar);

(c) if so, by when it would be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.